



# Definitions of Bed Poll Terms

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The ESF 8 Resource Management application's Bed Poll functionality requires a facility to enter two data points for each bed type:

- ⇒ Staffed Capacity
- ⇒ Census

**"Staffed Capacity"** is not licensed capacity, but the real capacity determined by staffing levels at the reporting point. Although a facility may be licensed for 10 beds, they may only have staff to accommodate 8.

**"Census"** is the actual number of patients in those bed types at the reporting point.

**"Available Beds"** are calculated by subtracting Census from Staffed Capacity. This is done automatically by the application.

These definitions are sourced from the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality in an article entitled "AHRQ Releases Standardized Hospital Bed Definitions" published in September 2005. It can be accessed at the following URL:

<http://archive.ahrq.gov/research/havbed/definitions.htm>

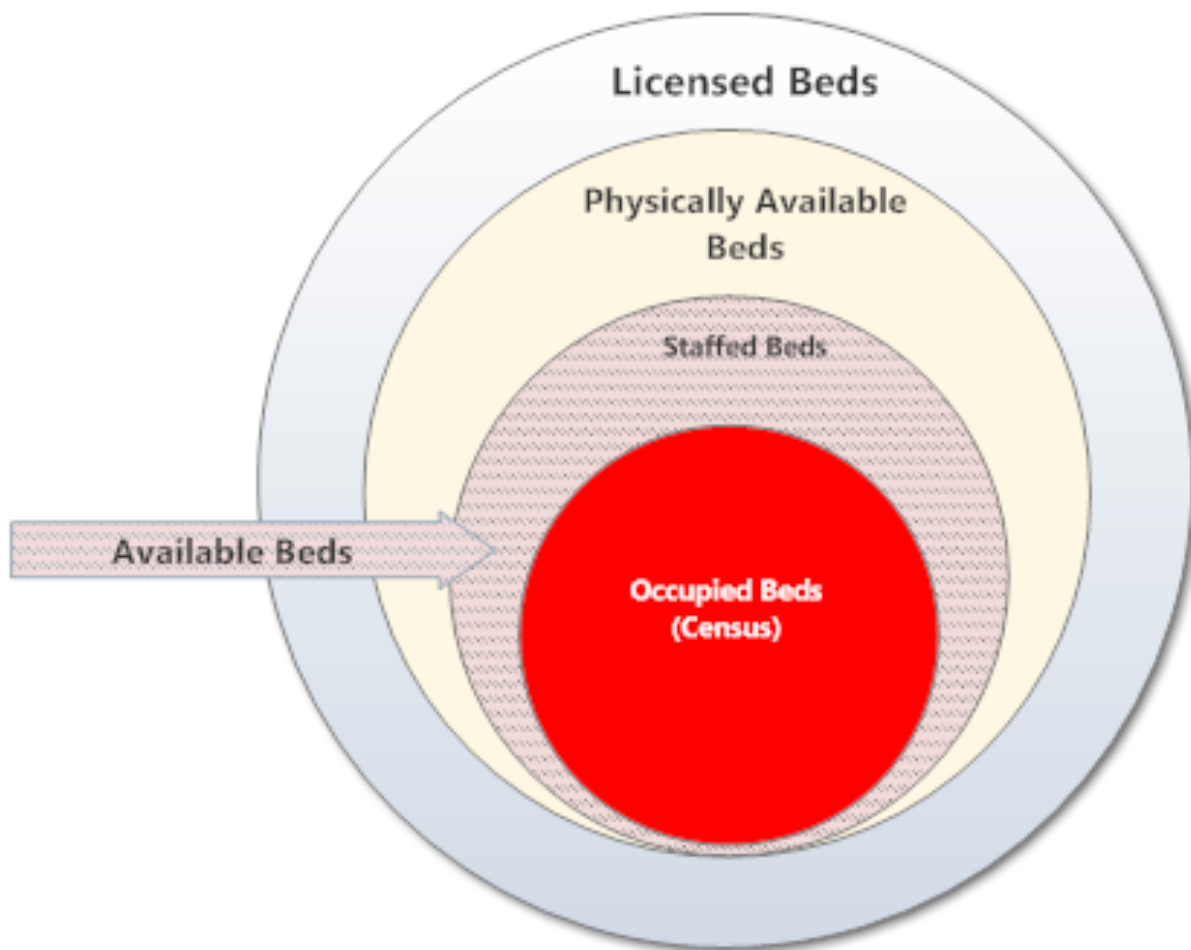
Pertinent excerpts from this document include:

- ⇒ Hospital bed definitions that can provide uniform terminology for organizations tracking the availability of beds in the aftermath of a public health emergency or bioterrorist event have been released by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Developed by AHRQ-supported researchers at Denver Health in Colorado, the definitions will allow hospital systems and emergency responders seeking beds to speak the same language. Definitions currently in use vary among systems and even among hospitals.

⇒ These standardized definitions were vetted by a working group assembled by Denver Health with members from Federal and State governments, hospitals around the Nation, and the private sector.

- **Licensed Beds:** The maximum number of beds for which a hospital holds a license to operate. Many hospitals do not operate all of the beds for which they are licensed.
- **Physically Available Beds:** Beds that are licensed, physically set up, and available for use. These are beds regularly maintained in the hospital for the use of patients, which furnish accommodations with supporting services (such as food, laundry, and housekeeping). These beds may or may not be staffed but are physically available.
- **Staffed Beds:** Beds that are licensed and physically available for which staff is on hand to attend to the patient who occupies the bed. Staffed beds include those that are occupied and those that are vacant.
  - This is the “Staffed Capacity” definition for ESF 8
- **Unstaffed Beds:** Beds that are licensed and physically available and have no current staff on hand to attend to a patient who would occupy the bed.
- **Occupied Beds:** Beds that are licensed, physically available, staffed, and occupied by a patient.
  - This is the “Census” definition for ESF 8
- **Vacant/Available Beds:** Beds that are vacant and to which patients can be transported immediately. These must include supporting space, equipment, medical material, ancillary and support services, and staff to operate under normal circumstances. These beds are licensed, physically available, and have staff on hand to attend to the patient who occupies the bed.
  - This is calculated by the Resource Management application.

The relationship between the different types of beds is shown below.



⇒ Staffed Beds = Vacant/Available Beds + Occupied Beds (Census)

⇒ Physically Available Beds = Staffed + Unstaffed Beds